



Sumter County

BOCC Monthly Meeting Schedule

Second Tuesdays -
Meeting @ 5:00 PM
Bushnell Courthouse -
Historic Courtroom

Third Tuesdays -
Workshop @ 5:00 PM
The Villages Sumter
County Service Center
Room 102

Fourth Tuesdays -
Meeting @ 5:00 PM
Colony Cottage Regional
Recreation Center -
Parlor Room



Newsletter

this issue

Fire Services **P.1**

Waste Disposal **P.2**

Office of Management and Budget **P.3**

Emergency Planning **P.4**

Filling the Voids

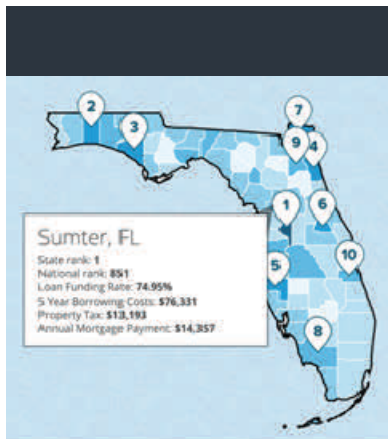
The Fire & EMS Division has been busy filling open positions to ensure the continued excellence in the delivery of customer services. The Deputy Chief of Operations position was filled through the promotion of Battalion Chief Rob Hanson. Since November, Chief Hanson filled the interim position, during which time he was able to demonstrate his competence in this new role, to which he was officially appointed on February 24th of this year. Training and Safety Officer, Battalion Chief Brian Tucker then filled Chief Hanson's shift vacancy, with the open Training and Safety Officer position has been posted.

The division recently completed the extensive applicant review process to fill its open firefighter positions. After the initial review of applications, the process, which started with over 80 applicants, included the administration of a written exam, followed the next day by an aggressive practi-

cal exercise where applicants demonstrated their physical abilities as well as practical knowledge skills. Successful candidates then moved forward to the interview process, which consisted of two separate interview panels, to enable the processing of all the applicants in one day. Out of the process, the County was able to make offers, and successfully hire nine full-time, and eight part-time firefighter/EMTs. Orientation for this new cohort began on Monday, March 14, and included an extensive orientation process over the following four weeks, covering the many nuances specific to Sumter County. Due to the extensive skill base required for their positions, and their unique shift-work, firefighters then complete a one-year introductory period with the County. The Fire & EMS division is excited to welcome these new members to our public safety family.



**Board of Sumter County
Commissioners**



Study Names Sumter County a Top Place to Get a Mortgage in Florida

Smart Asset, a New York financial technology company, released their second annual study on the Best Places to Get a Mortgage. The study determines the top markets by comparing the likelihood of mortgage approval by county, in addition to mortgage rates, average five-year borrowing costs, and property taxes. Sumter County cracked the list at number 1 in Florida, up from our rank of 2 in 2015.



Single Stream Recycling Pilot Program

On April 4, 2016, Sumter County started a Single Stream Recycling Pilot Program at The Villages Sumter County Service Center located in Wildwood and the Public Works office located in Bushnell. The program is expected to increase recycling rates and divert municipal solid waste from the waste stream. After initial review of the program along with the positive feedback so far, we anticipate additional locations to be added in the future.

Per Florida Statute 403.7032 and 403.706, the State of Florida has set a long-term goal for the recycling efforts of state and local governmental entities, private companies and organizations, and the general public to recycle at least 75 percent of the municipal solid waste that would otherwise be disposed of in waste management facilities or landfills.



Veteran Affairs takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. The VA is adding new sites to accommodate Veterans and loved ones in their time of need. In a few years, 95 percent of Veterans will have a burial option located within an hour's drive of their home.

Veterans with a qualifying discharge are automatically entitled to VA burial services. Spouses and dependent children are also eligible.

The following burial services may be provided to Veterans and their loved ones:

- Burial in a VA national cemetery
- Opening and closing of the grave, burial of cremated remains, or placement in an above-ground vault
- Perpetual care of the gravesite
- Ordering and inscription of a headstone or marker
- Provision of a burial flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate
- Performance of a committal service with military honors
- Transportation of flower arrangements from committal service to gravesite

VA Requirements

Discharge papers to establish your eligibility for burial services. Burials must take place during the week and cannot be conducted on a federal holiday.

For more information or assistance with veteran benefits and services, you may contact the Veteran Services Office at 352-689-4450.

Office of Management and



"Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has successfully implemented Phase I of the centralized purchasing program. In an effort to provide County staff with an easier ordering process, OMB has created a PDF fillable form for commonly used office supplies and an office supply catalog, which includes visuals. The form and catalog can be found at <http://sumtercountyfl.gov/739/Office-of-Management-Budget>.

In its first year of operation, Phase I of the centralized purchasing program saved the County

\$5,866.13 an overall 20% reduction in spending. The items that provided the greatest cost savings were copier paper, pens/pencils, binders, folder/files, envelopes, toner, and batteries.



Once an approved request is placed, the requisition is processed by the OMB staff. The supplies are ordered and delivered to OMB who

then disperses them to the appropriate department(s). This process is generally completed within 3 business days. OMB has a commonly used supplies stock on hand which can be delivered to the department(s) immediately and then reordered to replenish the stock.

Phase II of the centralized purchasing program is underway, so watch for more information in the upcoming newsletter. Please contact OMB if you have any questions related to the centralized purchasing program."

Volunteer.



Did you know that Sumter County needs and wants your services? If you've ever thought about donating hours and volunteering your time, education and knowledge, think no more! We have various departments that need someone just like you. Here are some reasons why volunteering is invaluable:

- * Meet new people and make new friends
- * Face new experiences or challenges
- * Gain experience in a variety of roles
- * Support your County
- * Develop professional networks
- * Get relevant training or develop skills

Volunteering increases self-confidence, it gives you a sense of accomplishment; it combats

depression, and helps you stay physically healthy. The County can use your help in a variety of ways such as answering phones, greeting and assisting citizens, typing, filing and faxing correspondence and giving information to the public.

If we've won you over, please log onto our website, www.sumtercountyfl.gov and click "Employment Opportunities". This link will lead you to our volunteer job postings where you can apply and choose a department that fits you. It doesn't take much for you to make a difference!



Budget Hearing Schedule

First Budget Hearing

September 14, 2016

6:00 PM

Sumter County Courthouse
215 East McCollum Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

Final Budget Hearing

September 27, 2016

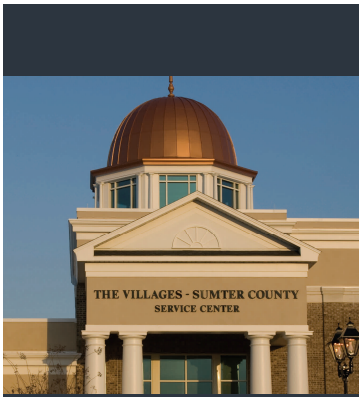
6:00 PM

Colony Cottage Rec. Center
510 Colony Blvd.
The Villages, FL 32162



Agromillora Recognized as Large Business of the Year

At the Sumter Chamber Annual Roses and Wine 2016 Gala, Agromillora of Florida received the award for Large Business of the Year! Agromillora of Florida opened its new facility in Wildwood, Florida in January 2016.



FloridaDisaster.org

Visit to learn valuable information about how Florida residents and visitors to the state can prepare for disasters and how citizens can become more involved in the community.

Sumter County Emergency Management
352-569-1660

Citizens Information Line (Only available during declared disaster)
352-569-3190

The NOAA weather radio is an important life safety device during severe weather

Severe weather like thunderstorms and tornadoes can strike at any time and with little warning. Storms like this develop very quickly here in Florida and their lifespan is relatively short. However, during their brief life, tornadoes, flooding, and other severe weather events can bring terrible destruction, injury, and loss of life.

The NOAA Weather Radio is perhaps one of the best-kept secrets in Florida. Many residents are unaware that the National Weather Service (NWS) operates a radio transmitter here in Sumter County that continuously broadcasts current weather conditions, forecasts, warnings, and other crucial weather information, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The NWS office in Ruskin, FL., is responsible for our local warning area and operates the transmitter that covers west central Florida. County residents and visitors should tune their weather radio to 162.500 MHz (Channel 5) for the best reception.

NOAA Weather Radio advises people of severe weather watches and warnings, providing extra time for people to react before dangerous storms hit them. For those in the path of a tornado, seconds can mean the difference between life and death.

However, a special kind of radio receiver is needed that is capable of receiving the alerts. Each advisory, watch, or warning transmitted by NWS is preceded by a special alert signal. An alarm feature is especially useful for warnings that are issued during the night when most people are asleep. In this case, a weather radio acts much like your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors - waking and giving a person precious time to react.

Sumter County Emergency Management recommends a radio model that includes the Public Alert Logo. Radios that carry the Public Alert Logo meet specific technical standards and include alerting features.

NOAA Weather Radios are available in electronics stores, sporting goods stores, marine supply stores, and on the Web. They are inexpensive (starting at about \$30.00) and many are programmable for a specific area.

For more information about these lifesaving radio receivers, visit the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards website at www.weather.gov/nwr/.



Sumter County Newsletter Issue 03 June 2016

Public Safety Radio System

The Fire & EMS Division is also responsible for the management of Sumter County's Public Safety radio system. This important infrastructure provides the backbone communication network that serves the entire county. This important system is used by Fire & EMS, Public Works, Rural Metro ambulance, Villages Public Safety, to include Community Watch, Sumter County Sheriff's Office, Wildwood Police Department, and all of the county's municipalities. The system is a highly advanced digital communications network that operates through a system of towers and subsystem sites across the county. To ensure the continued functionality and reliability of the system, a continued process of maintenance and upgrades of software and system components is required. According to Deputy Chief Stephen Kennedy, manager for the radio system, some of the important enhancements that come with the latest upgrade are as follows:

- Enhanced data capability per radio channel. This is significant for capacity moving forward as additional services are run

through the radio network requiring data usage.

- Provisioning manager is new in this release and is a significant upgrade. It provides enhanced capabilities in management of subscribers on the system and now offers the ability to import entire radio sets. This will reduce the hours of labor for import and maintenance of the radio system and also provides a different security mechanism to allow additional users to access and maintain the system.

The most significant improvement is the implementation of the Geo-Prime update that will allow dual Prime systems to be completely redundant and automated. The prime sites run the RF system and only one is in operation at a time. If one goes down it requires a manual switchover from one to the other. The new geo-prime will operate both primes simultaneously and will allow for seamless, automated redundancy.